

The conduct of Sinclair Broadcasting, requiring its member stations to air a smear "documentary" against Sen. John Kerry days before the election is an outrageous abuse of American traditions of fairness, free speech and broadcast license-holders' responsibility to the public they supposedly serve.

The smear piece Sinclair proposes to air is not news, and in fact the material it treats -- i.e., Kerry's 1971 statements about atrocities committed by U.S. military forces in Vietnam -- was hardly new to the American public 33 years ago. It should be recalled that the Mi Lai massacre had made headlines more than a year before Kerry's Capitol Hill speech. All of Kerry's specifics have been well documented, and he never once suggested that all U.S. forces were implicated, as the hit piece -- according to information from reviewers -- implies or asserts. Admittedly, I have not seen it.

Sinclair's management has declared that news of car bombings amounts to campaigning for Kerry.

This is so absurd as to defy comment.

The extreme partisanship of this broadcast organization is well known. Their conduct is an affront to the American public. Loss of their licenses to operate should result, should this travesty go forward.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely, Elsa M. (Peggy) Bruton Edwards